

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 020961
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON:BDF

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S -O:A. OTTO

-----300101Z 114094 /62

O 300045Z JAN 77 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 020961

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE, US

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WITH ISRAELIS ON
SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORT OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR
DINITZ AND UNDER SECRETARY HABIB MORNING OF SATURDAY,
JANUARY 29.

2. QUOTE:

DINITZ SAID WHILE HE DID NOT HAVE AN OFFICIAL REPLY FOR US
TO OUR LAST MESSAGE, HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH JERUSALEM
AND THEY HAD GIVEN HIM CERTAIN VIEWS TO PASS ON TO US.
THEY TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT IN OUR MESSAGES ON THIS
MATTER WE WERE EMPHASIZING OUR CONTACT WITH SARKIS AND NOT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 020961

WITH THE SYRIANS AND THIS APPEARS AS IF THE NABATIYAH AREA
IS IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE LEBANESE. THUS IT IS MADE
TO APPEAR THAT THE ACTIVITY IS NEEDED TO HELP STRENGTHEN
SARKIS.

THE FACT IS THAT THIS IS PRIMARILY A SYRIAN PROBLEM. THE
ISRAELIS NEED, FOR THE COMING MEETING OF THEIR GOVERNMENT,

SOME SYRIAN ANSWER AND WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT THE SYRIAN RESPONSE IS. THE SYRIANS ARE IN AN AREA WHERE THEY WERE NOT BEFORE AND THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER. DINITZ THEN SAID THAT OUTSIDE OF THIS MESSAGE HE ALSO WANTED TO INFORM US OF SOMETHING THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD WHICH WAS THAT THE KNESSET SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WAS MEETING ON SUNDAY. THEY HAD WANTED TO MEET TODAY BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DELAYED THE MEETING UNTIL SUNDAY. THIS ILLUSTRATES THE NATURE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ATMOSPHERE.

I REMINDED HIM THAT WE HAD TOLD HIM YESTERDAY THAT THE SAME MESSAGE THAT HAD GONE TO SARKIS HAD GONE TO DAMASCUS BUT THAT WE HAD NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THIS AND HAD POINTED IT OUT TO TEL AVIV. I TOLD HIM WE WERE EXPECTING A RESPONSE MOMENTARILY FROM DAMASCUS AND THAT WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH LATER. END QUOTE.

3. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SECRETARY, ATHERTON DELIVERED FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO ISRAELI CHARGE BAR-ON FROM THE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON.

4. BEGIN MESSAGE:

-- WE APPRECIATED YOUR INTERIM AND INFORMAL RESPONSE TO THE POINTS WE MADE TO YOU ON FRIDAY.

-- I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN WITH THE FACT THAT THE MILITARY UNITS INVOLVED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 020961

ARE SYRIAN TROOPS. THIS IS COMPLETELY CLEAR TO US, AND WE ARE ENSURING THAT SARKIS AND THE SYRIANS THEMSELVES UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE ROOT OF ISRAELI CONCERN.

-- SINCE WE SPOKE TO YOU ON FRIDAY, WE HAVE HAD A RESPONSE FROM THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. HE REITERATED THE POINT THAT THE MATTER CONCERNS PRIMARILY PRESIDENT SARKIS, BUT HE WENT ON TO QUESTION THE BASIS ON WHICH ISRAEL COMPLAINS ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF ARAB FORCES IN LEBANON-- WHICH IS AN ARAB COUNTRY--THAT ARE ASSUMING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY AND ARE UNDER ORDERS OF THE PRESIDENT OF LEBANON. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING FROM THE ISRAELI POSITION COULD DESTROY THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE- AS I HAVE INDICATED, WE ARE GOING BACK TO KHADDAM TO EMPHASIZE THE POINT THAT THE SYRIAN CHARACTER OF THESE TROOPS CANNOT BE IGNORED AND IS IN FACT THE BASIS FOR ISRAELI INTEREST IN THEIR DEPLOYMENT. I SHOULD ADD THAT WE KNOW ASAD IS BEING KEPT INFORMED OF THESE EXCHANGES.

-- WE CONTINUE TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THE LEVEL OF TENSION IN ISRAEL, THOUGH WE WERE GRATIFIED AT YOUR STATEMENT ON FRIDAY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS DOING

WHAT IT CAN TO CALM MATTERS IN THE COUNTRY. WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO FIND A FORMULA THAT WILL ENABLE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO REASSURE THE PUBLIC, BUT IT IS CLEAR THIS WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE MONDAY OR LATER. WE HOPE THAT OUR ASSURANCES THAT WE ARE MAKING SINCERE EFFORTS TO THIS END WILL ENABLE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE CABINET MEETING AND THE KNESSET SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PREVENT FURTHER TENSIONS AND PROVIDE MORE TIME FOR A SOLUTION TO BE FOUND.

-- SINCE TALKING WITH YOU THIS MORNING, WE HAVE HAD A
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 020961

REPORT OF A FURTHER CONVERSATION TODAY OF OUR CHARGE WITH LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS. BOUTROS EXPLAINED AGAIN THE NEED FOR THE FORCE TO PROTECT THE VILLAGERS IN THE SOUTH. HE SUGGESTED THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT COULD EXPLAIN PUBLICLY, TO QUIET THE CONCERNS IN ISRAEL, THAT IT HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCE THAT THE ASF MOVEMENT WAS EXTREMELY LIMITED IN NUMBER, THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS ENTIRELY TO ESTABLISH INTERNAL SECURITY INCLUDING CONTROL OF PALESTINIANS, THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO ADVANCE OR REINFORCEMENT OF ASF FORCES SINCE THE INITIAL MOVEMENT. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD WARNED THERE MUST BE NONE.

-- IN THE SAME CONVERSATION, BOUTROS INFORMED OUR CHARGE THAT THERE WERE IN FACT NO ASF FORCES IN NABATIYAH AND NO PLANS TO PUT ANY IN. THE ASF AND THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT PUBLICIZED THIS BECAUSE THEY WANTED PEOPLE TO THINK THEY WERE ALREADY THERE OR ON THE WAY. END MESSAGE.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY BUILDUP, NATIONAL SECURITY, CAT-C, POLITICAL SITUATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE020961
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ALATHERTON:BDF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977014/aaaaadj.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 9f6347d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3567535
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WITH ISRAELIS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, MPOL, IS, LE, US, SY, (SARKIS ILYAS)
To: TEL AVIV BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9f6347d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009